

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Selectmen present were: Michael Woodworth and James McIlroy. Others present were: Jay Somers of Comcast, Bill Davis, and Dwight Davis.

James made a motion to accept the proposal from Kevin Kukesh to install the brick landing for the handicapped ramp and to shim the walkway bricks for a total price of \$1,570. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

Jay Somers of Comcast stated that the six month extension to the cable contract was signed by all parties and is in effect. He is willing to meet with the Cable Advisory Committee to discuss the needs of the Town and to come to a final agreement on the renewal contract.

Jay feels it is in the Town's best interest to hold a public hearing regarding the renewal of the contract to determine what the community is looking for from Comcast. He is willing to attend the meeting to answer questions. After the public hearing, the Town and Comcast can move forward with informal negotiations. Jay presented a "boilerplate" contract for the Selectmen and Cable Advisory Committee to review.

James stated that the Town is asking to receive the Channel 22 broadcast out of Exeter at no charge to the Town or to the subscribers. Jay asked if the Town is looking to broadcast the Selectmen's Meetings or Deliberative Sessions and James replied no, the Town is not interested in spending any funds to broadcast Town Meetings.

Bill asked what the changes or differences are between the old and proposed new contacts. Jay said he has not compared the two. Michael asked for the differences between Comcast and Verizon services. Jay replied that Comcast offers fiber cable, telephone, and internet services. Verizon offers FIOS from the curb to the home. Comcast offers fiber optic only to the curb, not to the home.

Michael asked if Comcast broadcasts pornography. Jay stated that Adult Entertainment is offered on a pay per view basis and its availability is not advertised. The people who watch this programming are able to find it without advertisements. Michael asked if any communities have asked to restrict this programming from their towns. Jay replied no, per FCC regulations this type of programming cannot be restricted.

Bill Davis will look for the differences between the old contract and the proposed new contract. He will look into the subscription fees in Stratham and Exeter to see if the Newfields rates are the same. This information is public and should be available on the towns' websites. Bill will ask that Channel 22 be broadcast in Newfields at no charge to the subscribers or Town.

It was decided to hold the Public Hearing on the renewal Cable Contract on Tuesday, June 5th at 7:00 at the Newfields Town Hall. Notices will be posted in the Exeter Newsletter, the town office, the post office, the library, and on the marquee.

Michael spoke with Larry Arend about the library parking lot and reported that the Trustees are not ready to proceed with the project, but that they will hold a public hearing before proceeding.

The Selectmen asked Nancy to draft a letter regarding the complaint recently received regarding a resident allegedly selling vehicles in the residential/agricultural zone.

James made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2007 Selectmen's Meeting as amended. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

James and Michael viewed the stone wall at Badger Park and determined that there is a problem with part of the wall falling down. Nancy was asked to contact Brian Knipstein and Reuben Hull and ask them to take a look at the area, determine the best fix, and give an estimate of the cost for the fix. The property line also needs to be determined.

Checks were signed.

An Elderly Exemption Application was approved and signed.

Two Veteran's Tax Credit Applications were approved and signed.

A discussion on storage rental rates was tabled until next week's meeting.

The documents required by the Auditors were discussed and Nancy was advised to contact the Town Counsel and the Trust for Public Lands for assistance.

The Special Permit for the Mosquito Control Program was reviewed.

Chief Reed's memo regarding the upcoming bicycle race was reviewed.

The Newfields Planning Board Legal Notice was reviewed.

The need for additional Budget Advisory Committee members was discussed.

Chief Reed sent a memo advising that “On May 5, 2007 members of the police department as well as family and friends picked up trash along Route 87 from Mast Road to the intersection of Main Street.

This year we spent about three hours picking up and stuffing 43 blue bags of trash and an assortment of other treasures. The Department of Transportation out of Newfields was kind enough to give us the bags. All trash was deposited in the dumpster of Division Six located off of Route 108.”

Chief Reed sent a memo to the Selectmen about a discussion he had with Peggy Arend about the safety of the crosswalk at the school during the winter months. This was previously discussed at length between the Selectmen and Peggy and with the Selectmen and the road agent. The road agent will be asked to make sure that snow does not pile up near the crosswalk so that the crosswalk cannot be used.

A Workers’ Compensation First Report of Injury was reviewed.

Invoices were received from the library for the cost of repairs to their computer system due to the last storm. As their invoices total less than the insurance deductible, no claim will be submitted to the insurance company.

A welfare issue was discussed.

James made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer